

cysts remain in the gizzard for a longer or shorter time, and then pass into the duodenum, where they undergo the action of the digestive juices. Their envelope is soon dissolved, and the young *Distomum* set at liberty. It then slowly traverses the numerous folds of the small intestine; but during this course its genital organs are developed, and when it arrives in the rectum its ova are mature, fecundated, and ready to be eliminated.

It remained to learn in what invertebrate animals the Cercariæ encysted themselves. I can tell this now, thanks to the method above indicated. The Cercariæ of *D. brachysomum* are encysted in small Isopod crustaceans belonging to the genus *Anthura*, and to a species very common on the shores of the English Channel—namely, *Anthura gracilis*, Leach. The Cercariæ of *D. leptosomum* become encysted on the siphons and in the foot of a small Acepulous mollusk, which lives at a small distance from the shore—*Scrobicularia tenuis*. This mollusk and crustacean, with a few larvæ of Diptera, constitute the ordinary nourishment of *Tringa alpina*.

I have also observed other encysted Cercariæ which are parasitic on Crustaceans, but of the subsequent development of which I am ignorant. One occurs in *Mysis*, and is distinguished by the larger size of its two suckers. The other inhabits the visceral cavity of *Ligia oceanica*, and is remarkable for its large dimensions: its cyst is 0·280 millim. in diameter and 0·032 millim. in thickness.

*Scrobicularia tenuis* has furnished me with three species of sporocysts, which perhaps belong to the *Distoma* of which I have spoken. The Cercariæ which issue from them are very fine. Two of them appear allied to *C. dichotoma* and *C. setifera*, found in the free state in the Mediterranean by J. Müller. The third is certainly new, and is characterized by its tail, which is furnished with very short setæ arranged in rings.

I may also mention, in conclusion, three remarkable types of which I only know the adult form:—a *Monostomum* with a winged head and large sucker, which lives in the intestine of *Strepsilas interpres*; a *Holostomum* with scaly integuments, parasitic in the same bird; and a gigantic *Distomum*, a parasite of *Echinorhinus spinosus*, which was described by Risso under the name of *D. scimna*, and which I have just detected at Roscoff in the same Selachian. The large size of this last species, and the consistency of its organs, particularly fit it for histological investigations; I shall give its detailed anatomy in a memoir that I am now preparing.—*Comptes Rendus*, September 13, 1875, p. 475.

#### *Bathybius.*

According to some observations of Prof. Wyville Thomson, communicated by Prof. Huxley to 'Nature' (August 19, 1875), *Bathybius* probably consists of sulphate of lime precipitated in a flocculent state by strong alcohol.